



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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PRESS RELEASE

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Connecticut Receives \$225,000 in Risk Management Funding from USDA

Hartford, CT/October 18, 2006 – Connecticut is one of 15 states recently awarded funding through USDA's Targeted States Program. The \$225,000 allotted to Connecticut will be used to enhance its program of crop insurance education and information, The Connecticut Crop Insurance Education and Informational Resources Initiative (CCIEIRI).

CCIEIRI is a cooperative effort between Connecticut Department of Agriculture, University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension, and University of Connecticut Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. It plans to use the USDA funding to help establish new cooperative efforts with commodities and agricultural associations as a more extensive curriculum is developed.

New activities include a state-wide conference scheduled for November 16, 2006 on the topic of sustaining agriculture in Connecticut's urban environment. Dr. Robert Johnston from the University of Connecticut Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics will be the keynote speaker. In addition, a workshop is planned with CT DEP that will cover pesticide management, new farmers' issues, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

Existing one-on-one sessions, promotional mailings, and presentations and displays at Risk Management Association meetings will continue, as will ongoing partnerships with Cooperative Extension Educators and Vocational Agricultural leaders.

“We are pleased that Agriculture Secretary Johanns has recognized Connecticut’s commitment to its rich and diverse agricultural community,” said F. Philip Prelli, Commissioner of Agriculture. “This funding will allow us to not only continue our successful risk management programs but also fine-tune and enhance them so that they best meet the needs of our 4,200 farms and the residents who run them.”

The USDA’s Targeted States Program will provide \$4.5 million to 15 historically underserved states through cooperative agreements. All six New England states will receive funding, with Connecticut and Vermont receiving the greatest amounts, \$225,000 and \$226,000, respectively.

For more information about Connecticut’s programs for farmers, including risk management and the CCIEIRI, visit the Department of Agriculture’s website at www.ct.gov/doag/ and click on “Programs and Services.”

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